

Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode for HF surgery, comprising at least one electrically conductive section (2), ~~which can be brought into adapted to contact with a section~~portion of a patient's body, ~~characterized in that the neutral electrode (1) comprises and~~ comprising a circulation-promoting means ~~that adapted to enhance blood flow at least through the said body section that is portion~~ in contact with ~~the~~ said section (2).
2. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that the at least one~~wherein ~~said~~ section (2) is coated with a conductive gel to improve the contact between ~~the at least one~~ ~~said~~ section (2) and ~~the section~~ ~~said portion~~ of the patient's body.
3. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that the 1, wherein said~~ circulation-promoting means ~~comprise~~comprises a substance (4) that contains a circulation-promoting agent.
4. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode ~~according to one of the preceding claims, in particular according to Claim 3~~, characterized in that the at least one ~~wherein said~~ section (2) is coated with ~~the~~ said substance (4) that contains ~~the~~ said circulation-promoting agent.
5. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, ~~in particular according to Claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the 2 wherein said~~ gel incorporates ~~the~~ a substance (4) that contains ~~the~~ a circulation-promoting agent.
6. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, ~~in particular according to Claim 3 to 5, characterized in that~~ Claim 1, ~~wherein a carrier material (3) for holding the~~ adapted to hold ~~said~~ conductive section incorporates ~~the~~ a substance (4) that contains ~~the~~ a circulation-promoting agent.

7. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~Claim 1, wherein said circulation-promoting means comprise elements-(2, 2') that supply a stimulus current.
8. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to Claim 7, characterized in that the~~Claim 7, comprising a plurality of said electrically conductive sections and wherein said elements that supply ~~the~~ stimulus current are disposed in such a way that ~~the~~ stimulus current flows between at least two of said sections-(2, 2') within the neutral electrode-(1).
9. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims, in particular according to one of the claims 7 or 8, characterized in that the~~Claims 7, wherein said elements that supply the stimulus current comprise separate electrical connector devices -(6) for connection to a current source.
10. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the~~Claim 1, wherein said circulation-promoting means comprise~~comprises~~warmable elements-(8).
11. (Currently Amended) Neutral electrode according to Claim 1, wherein said
~~11. Neutral electrode according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the circulation-promoting means comprise~~comprises~~elements~~(9) that can be ~~are~~ heated by ~~supplying~~a direct supply of energy directly thereto.
12. (Currently Amended) Conductive gel for use in the application of a neutral electrode to a ~~section~~portion of a patient's body, containing at least one of capsaicin ~~or~~and a similar ~~means~~for promoting agent that promotes blood circulation.